

As a formerly incarcerated person I know the pain caused by excessive charges from greedy phone service providers and their counterparts in various departments of correction. In an era where most people have phone plans that allow them to call anywhere in the U.S. for free, people who are incarcerated must pay sums like \$10 or \$15 for a brief chat with their family. This causes undue hardship for the families who often lose their phone service or end up blocking their loved one's calls simply for financial reasons.

It is time the FCC regulated this practice and recognized that those in prison are human beings and deserve to be treated as such. Also, if we are to reverse the pattern of mass incarceration that has led to more than 2.3 million people being locked away, we need to do everything we can to promote closer links between people behind bars and their loved ones.

I urge the FCC to pass docket 96-128 and stop this superexploitation of some of the most disadvantaged people in our society . The time for action is now.

James Kilgore